

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, . Case Number 21-cr-92
Plaintiff, .
vs. . Washington, D.C.
COUY GRIFFIN, . March 21, 2022
Defendant. . 9:33 a.m.
- - - - -

TRANSCRIPT OF BENCH TRIAL
BEFORE THE HONORABLE TREVOR N. MCFADDEN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

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for the District of Columbia
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1 areas are above ground and this witness is likely going to be
2 testifying that restricted areas move when the protectee moves.

3 So we need to use this to cross-examine the witness. We
4 want to lift the sensitivity designation.

5 THE COURT: Do you know, is he going to be --

6 MR. SMITH: She.

7 THE COURT: -- that the vice president was in the
8 loading dock?

9 MS. IYENGAR: Yes.

10 MR. SMITH: Oh, she's going to testify that he was
11 there?

12 MS. IYENGAR: My understanding of the Court's order
13 was that the Court was allowing the defense to get into the vice
14 president's exact location. And so we were assuming that that
15 was going to be gotten into on cross-examination.

16 MR. SMITH: So I think, Your Honor, if she says no and
17 I didn't move to lift this, then --

18 THE COURT: We'll deal with it then.

19 MR. SMITH: Okay.

20 (End of bench conference.)

21 MS. IYENGAR: The government calls Lanelle Hawa to the
22 stand.

23 LANELLE HAWA, WITNESS FOR THE GOVERNMENT, SWORN

24 THE COURT: Good afternoon, ma'am.

25 THE WITNESS: Good afternoon.

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. IYENGAR:

3 Q. If you could state and spell your name for the court
4 reporter, please.5 A. Sure. It's Lanelle, L-a-n-e-l-l-e, R., last name Hawa,
6 H-a-w-a.

7 Q. Okay. Where are you currently employed?

8 A. With the United States Secret Service.

9 Q. And in what capacity?

10 A. I'm an inspector.

11 Q. Okay. And how long have you been with the Secret Service?

12 A. A little over 23 years.

13 Q. What is your current assignment with them?

14 A. I'm an inspector.

15 Q. I'm sorry. Which division or unit are you assigned to?

16 A. With the Inspection Division.

17 Q. I'm sorry. Say that one more time.

18 A. With the Inspection Division.

19 Q. And how long have you been with that unit?

20 A. I went over to the Inspection Division in September of
21 2021.22 Q. Okay. So prior to going over to the Inspection Division,
23 what unit were you assigned to?

24 A. I was assigned to the Liaison Division.

25 Q. And how long were you with the Liaison Division?

1 A. I went over to the Liaison Division in December of 2019.

2 Q. Okay. So is it fair to say you were with the Liaison
3 Division on January 6, 2021?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And what exactly does the Liaison Division do?

6 A. We coordinate visits to the U.S. Capitol with any of our
7 protectees, you know, president, vice president, heads of state,
8 or anyone who is designated as a protectee by the United States
9 Secret Service. So we coordinate with the Capitol Police,
10 Senate or House Sergeant at Arms, and coordinate, facilitate
11 access onto the complex, off the complex, and then throughout
12 the complex, the Capitol complex.

13 Q. And just to be clear, when you say "protectee," you mean a
14 person that receives Secret Service protection; is that right?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. So prior to January 6, 2021, had you ever coordinated
17 visits by the vice president to the Capitol building?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. And approximately how many times would you say you
20 did that?

21 A. Oh, goodness. Several.

22 Q. Okay. So I'm going to direct your attention now to
23 January 6, 2021. What were you assigned to do that day?

24 A. I was assigned to -- as the liaison agent, the site agent
25 for Vice President Pence.

1 Q. Okay. And I'm a fast talker. So I think you're just
2 feeding off of me. But if you could just slow down just a
3 little bit --

4 A. Sure.

5 Q. -- I think it will help our court reporter out.

6 And I think this is probably clear, but was Vice President
7 Pence at that time protected by the Secret Service?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. Why was Vice President Pence visiting the Capitol on
10 January 6, 2021?

11 A. He was coming up for the Joint Session of Congress. They
12 were gathering for the Electoral College vote.

13 Q. Okay. Prior to January 6, did you notify anyone, including
14 any law enforcement partners, that the vice president would be
15 at the Capitol on that day?

16 A. I'm sorry. Can you repeat the question?

17 Q. Sure. Prior to January 6, 2021, did you notify anyone,
18 including any law enforcement partners, of the vice president's
19 visit on January 6?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And how did you make that notification?

22 A. Via e-mail, through a notification form that we utilize, I
23 notified the U.S. Capitol Police.

24 MS. IYENGAR: Okay. And I guess I will just ask
25 whether there's any objection to Government's Exhibit 6 before

1 we put it up on the screen.

2 THE COURT: Why don't you just go ahead and put it up.

3 MR. SMITH: No objection.

4 THE COURT: All right. Without objection, 6 is in.

5 (Government Exhibit 6 received into evidence.)

6 MS. IYENGAR: Okay. Perfect.

7 BY MS. IYENGAR:

8 Q. And Inspector, I'm not sure if you can see that on your
9 screen.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay. Great. You said that you made the notification
12 through e-mail; correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Is this the same e-mail that you sent to make that
15 notification?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And if we can actually just go down to page 2 of
18 this exhibit. So on page 2 of this exhibit, it looks like
19 there's sort of a schedule down here at the bottom of the page.

20 Do you see that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you just explain for us what that schedule was about
23 and what the purpose was in providing that schedule?

24 A. Sure. It's just a notification that let's the Capitol
25 Police know that this is the location where we anticipated the

1 motorcade, the vice president's motorcade arriving and then
2 where we anticipate the vice president moving about the Capitol
3 complex once he arrives. And again, usually we'll put on there
4 where we anticipate the vice president departing the complex.
5 Q. Okay. All right. And we can take Exhibit 6 down. Thank
6 you.

7 So moving on to January 6, then, do you know if the U.S.
8 Capitol building or the surrounding grounds was restricted in
9 any way for visitor entry on that day?

10 A. It was.

11 Q. And if you could pull up Exhibit 2, do you see a copy of
12 Exhibit 2 in front of you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And is that a map of the restricted perimeter from
15 January 6, 2021?

16 A. Yes. The yellow line?

17 Q. Yes, the yellow line.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And can you just explain in terms of the buildings that are
20 within that restricted perimeter, which buildings are included
21 within the perimeter?

22 A. The main Capitol building, the visitor center. There's a
23 loading dock within there as well.

24 Q. Okay. And the Capitol building, visitor center, and the
25 loading dock, those were all restricted to visitor -- any sort

1 of visitor entry; is that correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Okay. And the visitor center and the loading dock, are
4 those above ground or below ground?

5 A. Below ground.

6 Q. Okay. And they were still restricted to visitor entry;
7 correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Okay. Why was there a restriction in place on January 6
10 for visitor entry onto both the Capitol grounds as well as the
11 building, visitor center, and the loading dock?

12 A. Multiple reasons. One, there was a build-out of the
13 inaugural stand on the west side; because of the certification
14 of the Electoral College votes on January 6; and there was,
15 obviously, COVID restrictions as well.

16 THE COURT: Sorry. Could you say that last part?

17 THE WITNESS: There was COVID restrictions.

18 THE COURT: COVID?

19 THE WITNESS: COVID.

20 BY MS. IYENGAR:

21 Q. And I'm sorry if I missed this. Were any of the reasons
22 for the restriction Vice President Pence's visit?

23 A. He was a part of the Electoral College, the certification.

24 Q. I see. So moving on to the actual timeline of events that
25 day, on January 6, at what time approximately that morning or

1 afternoon did you first see Vice President Pence?

2 A. Approximately 12:30.

3 Q. Okay. And was the vice president by himself or with other
4 family members?

5 A. He was with other family members.

6 Q. Can you tell us who was with him?

7 A. Sure. His wife, Mrs. Pence, and his daughter, Charlotte.

8 Q. Okay. And do they both receive Secret Service protection
9 as well?

10 A. Yes, they do.

11 Q. Okay. Where did you first meet him when you met him that
12 day?

13 A. I met the motorcade at the base of the stairs of the Senate
14 carriage.

15 Q. Okay. Is that within the Capitol building or somewhere
16 else?

17 A. The main Capitol building.

18 Q. Okay. After you met his motorcade, where did you go with
19 Vice President Pence?

20 A. We proceeded to his ceremonial office on the second floor
21 of the Senate building.

22 Q. Okay. And that's still within the Capitol building?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Okay. Did there come a time that he left that office?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And where did he go at that point?

2 A. The Senate chamber.

3 Q. Okay. And about what time was that?

4 A. Oh, gosh. A little before 1:00.

5 Q. Okay. What was the reason he was going over to the Senate
6 chamber at that point?

7 A. For ceremonial purposes, to walk over with the senators, to
8 proceed over to the House side for the election -- for the
9 certification of the Electoral College votes.

10 Q. Okay. So he first goes to the Senate chamber; correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. That's what you just testified to?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And then there comes a time that he goes to the House side;
15 is that right?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Okay. Did there come a time that he went from the House
18 side back over to the Senate chamber?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. At the point that he leaves from the House chamber
21 back to the Senate chamber, were you personally aware of
22 anything that -- anything that was taking place outside on the
23 Capitol grounds?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And tell me about that.

1 A. We were getting notifications that there were some security
2 breaches on the west lawn.

3 Q. Okay. And explain what you mean by "security breaches."

4 A. That there was groups of individuals who had broken through
5 the fencing on the -- again, on the west side.

6 Q. Okay. And what, if any, action did you take, did you or
7 any of -- any of the other members of the Secret Service take
8 based on that information that you were receiving?

9 A. Just gathering the information at that time.

10 Q. Okay. So after the vice president moved over to the Senate
11 chamber, did he stay in the Senate chamber, or did there come a
12 time that he left?

13 A. He was in the Senate chamber, and there came a point where
14 he moved to his office in the Senate area.

15 Q. Okay. And that's the same office we were talking about
16 earlier; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Why did he return back to his office from the Senate
19 chamber?

20 A. Because there was continued breaches on the west side.

21 Q. Okay. And when you say "continued breaches," of what?

22 A. Security breaches. So there was a large group of
23 individuals who were breaking through the snow fencing and the
24 bike rack, and they were coming up on the inaugural stage.

25 Q. I guess, why did he have to leave the Senate chamber to go

1 back to his office just because people were outside the building
2 breaking through the snow fencing?

3 A. It was becoming a security concern.

4 Q. Okay. And tell me about that. Why was that a security
5 concern for you?

6 A. Well, we had individuals, unknown individuals who were
7 breaking through a security barrier of a site where we had
8 protectees. So it becomes a security issue when they are
9 surrounding a secured site, and then it becomes an issue when
10 they are potentially taking away options for our routes out.

11 Q. Okay. And tell me about taking away options for the routes
12 out. How are people outside the building taking away options
13 for you to exit?

14 A. At some point the individuals were also breaching the east
15 side.

16 Q. Okay. And why was that significant?

17 A. Well, that's where our motorcade was.

18 Q. Okay. All right. So the vice president goes over to
19 his -- the ceremonial office; correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And then does there come a time that he leaves the
22 ceremonial office?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So I actually want to show you Government's Exhibit 75,
25 which is a video.

1 (Video played.)

2 Q. If we can just pause it real quick. Sorry. Thank you for
3 being very quick on that.

4 So we're just looking at the first frame in Government's
5 Exhibit 75. You can see in the top left corner here the time
6 stamp says Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at 2:25:49 p.m.

7 Do you see that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you see -- before we kind of move on through the video,
10 do you see yourself in this frame at all?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you just point yourself out and tell the Court what
13 you're wearing?

14 A. Yes. I'm at the -- on the foyer of the stairs in a blue
15 top and black suit.

16 Q. Okay. And we can continue -- and just to sort of orient
17 the Court, where exactly is this?

18 A. That is the member staircase, and it's just outside the
19 Senate chamber and the vice president ceremonial office.

20 Q. And what we're about to watch, is this the evacuation from
21 the ceremonial office that we were just talking about?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Okay. So we can go ahead and continue to play the video.

24 (Video played.)

25 Q. If we want to just pause it right here, is the vice

1 president in this frame here?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you just point out, I guess, what he looks like and
4 what he's wearing? I know everybody seems to be wearing the
5 same thing.

6 A. Sure. He is, I guess I would say, in front of the
7 gentleman who has got his wrist up, and he's wearing a dark
8 suit, and you can see his white collar and gray hair.

9 Q. All right. And so after -- and we can actually just play
10 this all the way to the end.

11 (Video played.)

12 Q. All right. I think it's starting to replay. We can go
13 ahead and take it down. Thank you so much.

14 So after kind of that video ends and the vice president
15 goes down that staircase, where do you go with him?

16 A. We took him to a secure location.

17 Q. Okay. And where was that secure location that he was taken
18 to?

19 A. Underground.

20 Q. Okay. Can you be a little bit more specific than that?

21 A. It was in the loading dock.

22 Q. Okay. And where was that loading dock like approximately
23 located, I guess?

24 A. It's located, I guess, underneath the Capitol building,
25 sort of under the plaza on the Senate side.

1 Q. Okay. Is it fair -- I guess -- and if we can just pull up
2 Exhibit 2 again. Sorry to make you go back and forth.

3 Just looking at Exhibit 2, is the loading dock that you
4 took the vice president to within that yellow line in Exhibit 2?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And I think we were talking about a loading dock
7 earlier in your testimony, about whether it was restricted or
8 not, and you indicated that the loading dock you were talking
9 about was restricted; right?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Is that the same loading dock that the vice president was
12 taken to?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. All right. And approximately how long did he remain
15 in that loading dock location for?

16 A. Several hours, so approximately four or five hours.

17 Q. Okay. Did there come a time that -- well, I guess let me
18 back up for a second.

19 After the vice president went to the loading dock area, do
20 you know what happened with the Electoral College certification
21 process? Was it still going on? Had it been stopped? Or
22 something else?

23 A. While we were in the loading dock?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. It had been stopped.

1 Q. Okay.

2 THE COURT: Ms. Iyengar, do you have a time stamp on
3 the video of the vice president leaving the ceremonial --

4 MS. IYENGAR: Yes. I believe it was 2 -- sorry. I
5 think it starts at 2:26, but let me just confirm that. 2:25:49.

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 BY MS. IYENGAR:

8 Q. And why was the certification of the Electoral College
9 stopped at the point that the vice president sort of left out of
10 the ceremonial office?

11 A. It was stopped for multiple reasons. It was stopped
12 because there was breaches on the House of Representatives side
13 by individuals who had breached the House of Representatives,
14 and then there was breaches happening also on the Senate side of
15 the Capitol building.

16 Q. Okay. Was -- I guess, was it stopped at all in relation to
17 any of the individuals you had talked about earlier who were
18 outside of the Capitol building?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And tell me about that.

21 A. Approximately 2:00, I want to say, the Capitol went into
22 lockdown, which means everything has to stop, and the doors
23 lock, and people aren't allowed in. It's a security issue,
24 obviously, that's causing concern so that they have to stop any
25 official actions that are taking place and make sure everybody's

1 safe.

2 Q. Okay. And when the building went into lockdown at 2:00,
3 was that due to individuals who had breached the security
4 perimeter inside the building or outside the building?

5 A. I believe it was -- I believe it might have been both, but
6 I can't recall for sure.

7 Q. That's fine. If you're not sure, you're not sure. That's
8 totally fine.

9 Okay. Did there come a time that the vice president
10 returned back to the Senate chamber?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. On the evening of January 6?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. And why did he return back?

15 A. For the continuation of the certification of the Electoral
16 College votes.

17 Q. Okay. Did you remain with the vice president between the
18 time that he evacuated out of the ceremonial office to the time
19 that he returned back to the Senate chamber that evening?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. Okay. And I don't think I asked you this: About what time
22 does he return back to the Senate chamber?

23 A. I want to say it was approximately 7:00.

24 Q. Okay. And in that interim period between when he leaves
25 the ceremonial office to when he returns back to the Senate

1 chamber, was there ever a time that he was outside of the
2 restricted perimeter that we see in Government's Exhibit 2?

3 A. No.

4 MS. IYENGAR: Your Honor, if I can have just one
5 moment.

6 (Government counsel conferred.)

7 MS. IYENGAR: No further questions for this witness,
8 Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Iyengar.

10 Mr. Smith?

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. SMITH:

13 Q. Good afternoon.

14 A. Good afternoon.

15 Q. I'm representing the defendant.

16 Ms. Hawa, you said that you've been employed by the Secret
17 Service for over 20 years; is that correct?

18 A. 23, over 23 years.

19 Q. 23 years?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And that's -- is that about four presidencies, would you
22 say?

23 A. I'm not sure.

24 Q. Maybe, you know, Bill Clinton, George Bush, Barack Obama,
25 Donald Trump, all of those presidencies that you've been